**‘Care’ Online Sessions Abstracts and Speaker Biographies**

Friday 18 March, 1400-16.00 GMT – Care and Aesthetics

**Natalie Lis (University of Queensland) – Caring for Penguins in View: A Brief History of how Care Shaped the Development of the Penguinarium**

This paper investigates how care influenced the development of early penguinariums, an architectural archetype that developed during the mid-20th century. There are three major applications of care that this paper aims to illuminate being: penguin welfare, public affection for exhibited penguins, and care of investments made by zoological societies. This paper examines penguin zoological publications from the 1950s-1970s to elucidate how penguinariums developed in the United States with a particular focus on the Detroit Zoo Penguinarium (1968).

Between 1897 and 1922 there were seventeen notable expeditions to Antarctica undertaken primarily by Western countries and Japan. These expeditions, although not specifically for penguin research, are part of the history that entangles penguins with current culture. Penguins have unusual traits for birds that seem to give them an elevated status in public imagination. They stand upright and have forward-facing eyes which allows them a charismatic aesthetic making them popular exhibits. To maintain zoo collections hundreds of penguins lost their lives in transport and many penguins perished only a few months after their captivity. This paper works to understand how caring for captive penguins developed the penguinarium. It also questions if penguins would have been best cared for if left in their native homelands.

**Natalie Lis** is in the final year of her PhD at the University of Queensland. Her research explores how architecture influences bird and human relationships. She investigates how human-built structures such as chicken coops, cockfighting arenas, observation hides, sky burial sites and penguinariums act as an intermediary for material exchanges in addition to cultural and social symbolism. Lis also works as a casual academic at UQ, tutoring architectural design, theory and history. Additionally, she is a guest editor at Australasian Animal Studies Association (AASA).

Natalie Lis presented “Battle Birds,” at Re-appropriation and Representation Research by Design Postgraduate Symposium 2020 hosted at ESALA, Edinburgh School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture. “Battle Birds,” discussed the body of the fighting cock armed with gaffs, human crafted weapons that is placed in an architectural space of action, the cockpit. It explores how the male chicken is exploited through this human-built structure as a source of entertainment and investigated how human cultural gender dynamics influence the bird’s position in human society.

**Amy Dover (Newcastle University) – How Images of Non-human Animals Influence our Need to Care**

This paper seeks to define a new position for ‘scientific illustration’ as one of anthropocentric fiction, counteraction, and myth, rather than exact technical veracity. By simultaneously exploiting and subverting the historical relationship between art and science in order to ‘describe’ alternative interspecies relationships, this research seeks to disrupt established species prejudices that impact negatively on biodiversity. Art is used to disarm speciesism and help increase empathy for endangered and extinct British non-human animals, contributing to the shift in perspective that is necessary for the age of the Anthropocene. Savery’s famous depiction of the Dodo is said to have deceived the public and scientists for 400 years, by creating a false perception of a fat, lazy bird that brought on its own demise. Drawings of the Thylacine were said to have caused its extinction; pictured wolf-like, with claws and teeth poised to eat livestock and threatening human commerce. This research will challenge the way animals have been conventionally displayed, drawn and documented. Objects haunting the human imagination rather than individuals; dominating, commodifying and discarding them, generating othering and speciesism. I use techniques that reflect the fragile nature of disappearing and lost British species, such as scale, erasure, transparency, performative drawing, detailed complex drawings and printmaking with specimens, oil, and the heat of the sun.

**Amy Dover** is a Practice based PhD candidate in Fine Art with Art History and Environmental Sciences at the School of Arts and Culture, Newcastle University. She has a Masters (with Distinction) from Edinburgh College of Art. She has worked as an artist for 14 years, working and exhibiting internationally, as well as collaborating with international animal charity organisations. She also works as a senior academic at MIMA School of Art and Design at Teesside University as well as an educator for other organisations and institutions.

**Bentley Crudgington (Manchester University) – A Slow Ritual of Care**

Blending mail-art, crafting circles and consequences, A Slow Ritual of Care brought several small groups of participants together, over two interactive workshops, to make and care for felt research mice and to collectively decide upon their fates. These experimental encounters created spaces that critically considered the difference between being careful and care-full in engaged, participatory research, the vulnerabilities of bodies and what lingers after encounters. This initiative used intimacy and strategic betrayal to question the boundaries of comfortability, accountability, and responsibility within current engagement practices. This talk will explore critical reflections on care as infrastructure - when perceived burdens of care may stop us exploring difficult conversation, pre and post care, caring at a distance. It will examine the emergent themes of participation, strategic avoidance, and complicity within public imaginaries of ethical decision making regarding human and experimental animal entanglements.

**Bentley** is a creative practitioner working at the interface of human, animal, and environmental health. Originally trained and working within veterinary and biomedical science, they have since transitioned out of laboratory research into creative facilitation. Their main motivation has been to address the culture of communication around animal research and reimagine who could inform these discussions and how it might feel to participate. By diversifying and investing in the culture of communication, the sector can get a deeper and more nuanced understanding of societal concerns and begin work to collectively address them. Their work varies from large scale immersive theatre to intimate one-on-one discussions between two people. These activities differ in form and methods, but they foreground the conversation as the unit of exchange, and by centring care and ethics, help people have difficult and normally private conversations publicly.

Friday 29 April 14.00-16.00 BST – Care and Wild Animals

**Monica Vasile (Maastricht University) – Unlikely Technologies of Care: Dart Guns, Hand Puppets, and Locked Feeding Stations to the Rescue of Nearly Extinct Species**

Since the dawn of the twentieth century, species conservation practices have become increasingly interventionist. Caring for critically endangered species required pioneering and messy work, which often involved novel and unlikely technologies. People darted wild horses with risky immobilisation drugs to remove their parasites and treat their ailments. They tricked human-reared bird chicks with hand puppets into believing they were fed by their own parents, to avoid imprinting on humans. They devised feeding stations that would stay locked unless the right kakapo parrot, emitting the right signal from its tiny transmitter, would try to feed, and so climb onto a platform that weighed the bird, telling the conservationist if the kakapo was losing weight. In this presentation I discuss a few examples of such technologies of care and explore how they have been developed and used in species conservation. I highlight how in the short run these technologies were risky, traumatic, deceiving, infuriating, however in the long run they can be of great benefit. I argue that conservationists and animals navigate relationships of care mediated by technologies, a process that involves complex trade-offs.

**Monica Vasile** is a PhD candidate in environmental history at Maastricht University, and part of the research group “Moving Animals: A History of Science, Media and Policy in the 20th century” since March 2020. Her research focuses on the history of species conservation and averting extinctions. Her approach integrates animal history with a history of science and conservation. Monica obtained a PhD in Sociology from the University of Bucharest in 2008 with a dissertation on forest commons in the Romanian Carpathian Mountains, and has also been a fellow at the LMU-Rachel Carson Center and a researcher at the Max Planck Institute of Social Anthropology in Halle.

**Laura Gelfand (Utah State University) – Caring and Conflict: Wolves and the Double-Edged Sword of Concern**

One of the last acts of the Trump administration before leaving office was the removal of wolves from the endangered species list. Since then, environmental groups have been doing everything possible to highlight the resulting decimation of wolf populations in the western US and spur the public and the Biden administration to care about wolves and save them before they are hunted to extinction. Caring about wolves is complicated both by centuries of systematic demonization and by the wolf’s more recent turn as an emblem of environmental activism by those who oppose it. After briefly outlining this history, I will examine current efforts to reverse the delisting of wolves and discuss how successful these efforts may or may not be based on historical precedent. Currently many environmental groups are highlighting the essential role that wolves play in healthy ecosystems, but this does little to combat long-standing, culturally-constructed objections to wolves by conservative groups, and in the current politically-polarized climate it could actually reinforce negative reactions. Saving wolves from extinction will require the public and the government to care about their survival, and this paper will explore how best to promote caring in this uniquely complex situation.

**Laura Gelfand**, Professor of Art History at Utah State University, received her PhD in Art History from Case Western Reserve University in 1994. At Utah State University she served as Head of the Department of Art & Design from 2011-2018. Informed by art historical methods, Laura Gelfand’s current research engages the vibrant, interdisciplinary world of animal studies with a particular focus on canids. After editing the volume *Our Dogs, Our Selves: Dogs in Medieval and Renaissance Art, Literature, and Culture* (Brill 2016), Gelfand spent much of 2018-19 as a Fulbright Scholar in the Department of the History of Art at the University of York where she conducted research on historical representations of wolves. In addition to completing a book about wolves, her essay, “The Wolf at the Door and the Dog at our Feet,” was published in Home Cultures: Special Issue on Animals and Home in 2021, and she is contributing a chapter on “Human Animal Interactions and Art,” to *The Handbook on Human-Animal Interactions, Interventions and Anthrozoology* (Routledge, forthcoming 2022).

**Emilie Crossley (Hokkaido University) – Feeding Foxes: Care, Commodification and Conflict in Japan’s Wildlife Tourism Industry**

Captive animals are dependent on humans for survival and one of their most fundamental needs is to be fed. As such, feeding can be conceptualised as a form of practical interspecies care. In zoos and other wildlife tourist attractions, feeding practices are indicative of an establishment’s broader philosophy regarding the care of its animals. Feeding can serve merely to keep animals alive, provide behavioural enrichment, or be commodified in interactive visitor experiences. Drawing on observational data from a multi-sited, multispecies ethnography of captive red foxes involved in Japanese wildlife tourism, I discuss four examples of feeding that illustrate how ‘care is a complex and compromised practice’ (Van Dooren, 2014, p. 292). I identify two key dimensions characterising ‘careful feeding’ of red foxes: food surplus and fox mobility. Surplus food allows foxes to cache and limits conspecific aggression, while mobility provides them with a choice about how and when to participate in the feeding. Settings in which feeding encounters are commodified tend to lack one, or both, of these dimensions, often resulting in compromised welfare. I therefore argue that by foregrounding animal subjectivity we can discover new modalities of care that are more sensitive to the needs of other species.

**Émilie Crossley** is a JSPS Postdoctoral Fellow in the Research Faculty of Media and Communication at Hokkaido University and a Visiting Fellow at the Center for Tourism Research at Wakayama University in Japan. She is currently conducting a multispecies ethnography of Ezo red fox tourism in Hokkaido and Miyagi, which is funded by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. This research aims to interpret and evoke vulpine subjectivity in low-consumptive wildlife tourism settings, with a particular focus on commodified encounters such as ‘fox hugs’. Émilie also has a broader interest in the affective dimensions of tourism and has previously written about tourists’ emotional responses to poverty, cosmopolitan empathy and ecological grief. Her research has been published in international journals such as *Tourism Geographies,Tourism Recreation Research* and the *Journal of Qualitative Research in Tourism*. Émilie holds a PhD in tourism and psychology from Cardiff University in Wales, where she taught social psychology for several years, and she was until recently based in New Zealand.

Wednesday 4 May, 14.00-16.00 GMT – Care for and with Horses

**Alex Franklin (Coventry University) and Nora Schuurman (University of Turku) – Practicing a Response-able Ethic of Interspecies Care: Trying to Become With Well, in Support of Equine Rescue and Rehabilitation**

In this presentation, we discuss the intertwining of care with learning to know and become with the other in interspecies relationships. Drawing on interviews and guided tours with frontline staff at horse rescue yards in the UK, we ask: What does it mean to care-with an animal well? What needs to be known about an animal in order to become response-able to its care needs? Taking ‘good’ care of a rescue horse is centred upon establishing an intimate knowledge of the horse as an individual. Weaving together scholarship on care and interspecies relationality, we explore how the situated interspecies process of getting to know the other and caring well unfolds on a rescue yard; how the grooms develop an understanding of the horse as an individual with – or without – a future. Throughout, we pay attention to the on-going relational process of becoming between human and horse. Our main assertion is that the ability of both animal and human to become with one another in a manner supportive of establishing and sustaining a mutually rewarding interspecies relationship, is key to the practicing of a response-able ethic of care.

**Alex Franklin** is a Professor of Social Sustainability Science at the Centre for Agroecology, Water & Resilience (CAWR), Coventry University, UK. Her research explores collaborative forms of environmental action and care, with a particular focus on place-based practice, situated knowledge and more-than-human relations.

**Nora Schuurman** is Academy Research Fellow at the University of Turku and Adjunct Professor of Animal Geography at the University of Eastern Finland. She specialises in human–animal relationality, equestrianism and pet culture, especially questions concerning space, agency, care and death. She currently studies interspecies care practices in her project Landscapes of Interspecies Care: Working the Human–Animal Boundary in Care Practices (Academy of Finland).

**Rebecca Smith (Liverpool University) – What is best for the Horse? Examining the Construction of Veterinary Care for an Older Horse**

The way in which UK leisure horse owners/carers seek veterinary services for their animal changes with increasing horse age. By exploring what is important to owners and vets, we highlight opportunities to support these care relationships. Data were generated and analysed using a constructivist grounded theory approach. Data included open-access online discussion forum threads focused on older horse care and in-depth interviews with 23 horse owners and eight corresponding vets. Owners sought veterinary services for both routine care and problem-based consultations. For owners, a vet’s communication style, interactions with and knowledge of a horse, as well as their technical skill and knowledge, were influential in how they conceptualised a vet as a professional. In providing a professional service, a vet’s assessment of a horse was important. However, veterinary assessments were shaped by how owners presented an issue, as well as vets’ beliefs around normal ageing and socially acceptable care. This interplay of factors impacted on the problematisation of changes in an ageing horse, and in turn, on the negotiation and implementation of care. A contextual understanding of the priorities in the human-horse relationship is fundamental to the provision of appropriate veterinary care and this influences owner advice seeking over time.

**Rebecca** graduated from the University of Edinburgh with a Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery degree and went on to complete her postgraduate Certificate in Veterinary Anaesthesia and Analgesia. She has worked in clinical practice in the UK and in charity clinics overseas. Rebecca commenced her PhD in 2019 where she works with an interdisciplinary team at the University of Liverpool. Her research is focused on improving equine welfare by adopting a qualitative approach to understand decision-making around care of older horses in the UK.

**Charlotte Brigden (University Centre Myerscough) – Narratives of Equine Care: The use of I Poems to Hear the Voices of Equine Caregivers at the end of Life**

Provision of care and decision making towards end of equine life often imparts emotional trauma and moral challenges for horse carers. I Poems use participants’ voices to engage the audience when relaying emotionally challenging subjects. Such poems evidence moral reasoning through a voice concerning abstract notions of justice, alongside a second voice portraying relational care. Narratives have been collected through biographical interviews of horse owners whose horse recently died. I Poems have been constructed from three narratives. Themes include internal turmoil relating to the appropriate time for euthanasia:

“Are we getting to the end of the line?”

We’d done everything we could,

but coming to the end of last summer, it was obvious.

Did everything we could to manage him.

But you can’t change his time.

She’d said “we won’t get him well through this winter”

“You’ve made the right decision” (Participant 1)

And so she was, munching on grass,

and she literally went really peacefully, still chewing grass.

It was really upsetting,

I held it together,

until the moment she hit the floor,

and I was like “shit, what have I done?” (Participant 2)

I Poems offer engaging and authentic communication of horse carer experiences at end of life.

**Charlotte** is the Assistant Head of Equine (H.E.) at University Centre Myerscough, where she has been teaching and researching with students for 20 years. During this time, she has been involved in a range of research fields, including equine biomechanics, equine nutrition and eventing horse falls. More recently, Charlotte’s research interests have expanded into the social side of the equine industry and she is currently studying for a PhD with University of Liverpool, investigating horse owners’ experiences of death.

**Sese Ma (Kyoto University) – Caring as a Friend: Learnings from an Interspecies Community in Tamba, Japan**

A discourse of carer/ cared relationship is prevalent in traditional ways of understanding care. This perception is commonly viewed as involving interpretations about both inter- and intra-species entanglements. However, dynamics of care could be more complicated than such clear-cut typologies. The lived experience of care is “intangible and unquantifiable” and consequently there is often a lack of means to its documentation (Johnson, 2021). Based on fieldwork in an NGO for retired racing horses in Tamba, Japan, this paper describes a lively community of human and horse participants, where peer-to-peer caring happens in supportive networks between horse to horse, horse to human, and human to human relationships. Centered around stories of Iden, a playful horse who combats symptoms of PTSD, this paper argues that fundamental to these organic two-way relationships is caring as a peer instead of caring as a care-giver. Care informs the ways in which human and horse listen deeply and create practices that attend to Iden’s feelings, while his responsiveness also comes from an affective place of friendship. This paper hopes to contribute to understanding of non-institutional models of interspecies care by articulating these lively and informal relationships that resist a neat division between a carer and the cared.

**Sese Ma** is a PhD candidate for area studies in Kyoto University, Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies. She is currently working on a project in regard to the interconnection between the imperial wars and Japanese Racing Association, as well as interspecies entanglements between retired racing horses and human in Tamba, Japan. Her research interests include discourse of naturalness surrounding more-than-human selfs, especially livestock animals, and the interconnection between the construction of race and breed. Before the pandemic, she did fieldwork in the Nepal Himalayas where free-ranging mountain dogs navigate different forms of power and build their lives next to large scale hydropower dam projects.